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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Hawaii Public Utilities Commission Initiates A Proceeding on the Wireless Telecommunications Industry in Hawaii

The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") initiated a proceeding today to examine whether it is consistent with the public interest to streamline the regulation of wireless telecommunications industry in Hawaii by exempting wireless telecommunications carriers, their services, or both, from any of the Commission's statutory requirements.

Presently, the Commission, pursuant to federal and state laws, has the authority to regulate certain aspects of the wireless telecommunications carriers' services including, without limitation, customer billing information and practices, billing disputes and transfers of control.

The order opening this inquiry states, in relevant part, that "[i]n recent years, the [C]ommission recognizes that there has been an expansion in the development and deployment of wireless telecommunications technologies and services internationally, nationally and locally, and that developing and promoting investment in new and innovative wireless telecommunications technologies will continue to impact the economy, education, health, safety, leisure, general welfare, and prosperity of the State and its people in the future." In addition, during this past Hawaii legislative session, various wireless telecommunications carriers such as AT&T Wireless, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless and Sprint PCS supported measures intended to streamline the regulation of these carriers.

Accordingly, the Commission believes that it is now appropriate to examine whether it is consistent with the public interest to streamline the regulation of the wireless telecommunications industry in Hawaii. To assist the Commission in its inquiry, the Commission has ordered the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy and all registered wireless telecommunications carriers (which includes providers of cellular, paging, and

personal communications services) in Hawaii to be parties to the docket. Any other interested persons, telecommunications carriers, business groups or entities may request the Commission for approval to participate in this docket as either intervenors or participants. However, motions to intervene or participate, without intervention, must be filed with the Commission not later than 20 days from the filing date of the order in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice and procedure.

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